

Horatio P. Van Cleve and family papers.

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Version 3
August 20, 2018

Ann Arbor Aug 3d 1858

My dear Children

Ed is going East to morrow and I must write to you a few words by him. I am very glad for [illegible] going, for [illegible] never would have been happy out here after having become so much attached to her [illegible]. I send by him the Loose berries which Bridget preserved for Anna, and you dear, must thank her for them when you write again. If you could manage to write her a little note and enclose it in your letter to me, it would gratify her beyond all account. I procured material yesterday for a double gown for my daughter intending

send it by Ed. but his
hurried departure renders that
impossible so I must have it
ready for the next opportunity
will be quite a comfort for
you when the mornings are
[illegible] and it is a garment
you ought to have —
I want you to be dear good
children and do as you are
bid by your father and mother
be kind to each other and
do not quarrel. Children should
[illegible] each other. You must
write to me as often [illegible]
[illegible] I have but few [illegible]
[illegible] me now, and sometimes
I feel quite lost and lonely, but
a letter from the absent ones
of my flock always cheers and
comforts me. You must

ask Ed all sorts of questions
about us and he may think
of things to tell, which I do not
write, and which might in-
terest you. The children are
all very well and send much
love and many kisses. I expect
Aunt Ellen back in about
four weeks from the time she
left, and I imagine she
will have considerable to talk
about. I shall have a letter
from St Paul early this
week I think. By the time
[illegible] married it will be
quite a delightful trip out
to Uncle Malcolm's place and
I think it had better be your
wedding tour — Dear Mort
you must not let your little girl
teaze you too much, not fret

Valentine [illegible] is to make
Intended [illegible] of [illegible] for
Switch [illegible] to

after you when you have to
be away from her. You must
tell me what effect her New
Haven trip had upon her —
How I would love to see you
[illegible] When will it be? We
[illegible] to tell but we will hope
for the best. It is best not to
[illegible] nor set our
hearts too much upon them —
It will all be right I know
if we leave it all in the
hands of our Heavenly Father —
I shall miss Ed very much but
cannot regret his going. I hope the
situation he now has will be a
permanent one, and [illegible]
[illegible] prosperous and happy — Fanny
baby begins to grow and is going to be
very sweet and pretty. It looks very odd
to see Fanny rit in a wrapper all
towelled up to keep her dress from being
soiled with milk. nursing baby and
talking baby talk. She shuts herself up
entirely with the little human and seems
to think no one can take care of it but herself

Ann Arbor Oct 12th 1855

My Darling Child

I can write but a few lines this morning for I have a great deal to do— I received a letter from Aunt Mary yesterday and find it will be necessary for me to go to Cincinnati next week and go from there with dear Grandmother to St. Peters Minnesota. Aunt Mary is not able to go, and Grandma has set her heart so much upon going that her trouble & suffering in consequence of it. Uncle Lincoln sent me money to go with, and I shall start on Tuesday with Ellen whom I shall leave at Cincinnati probably for the winter the journey will do me good.

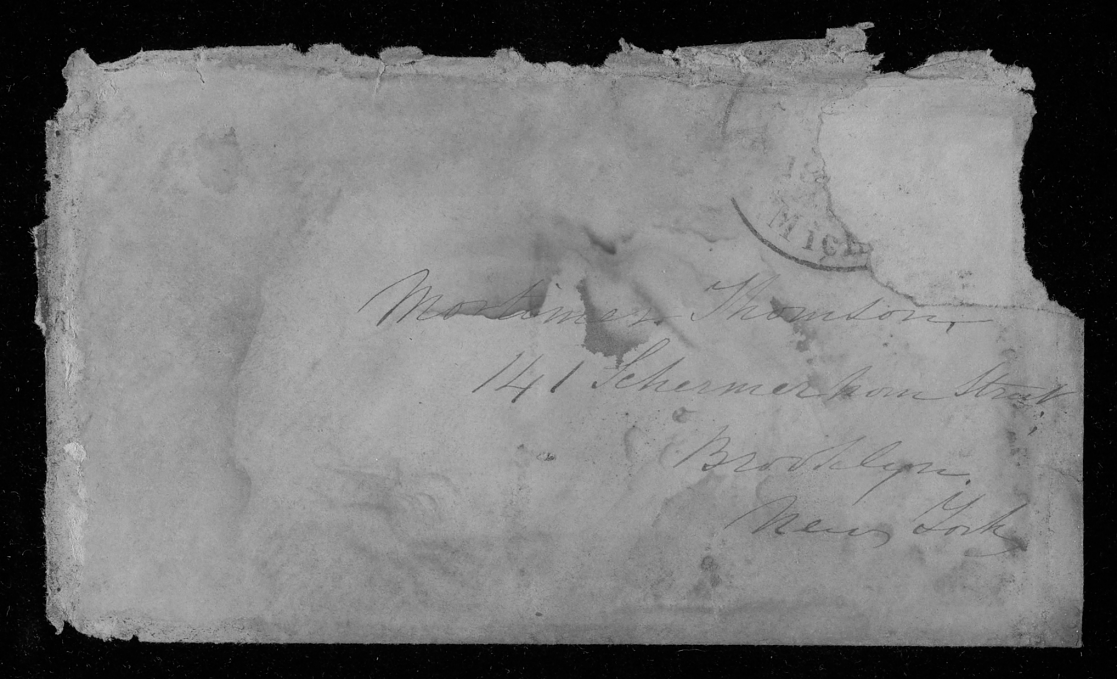
I shall not get half as tired
as I do every night waiting
on the youngsters, and Hannah
Inman is going to come and
take care of them while I am
gone. I shall not be absent
more than two weeks, and then
father will be at home, and
he will come and see you
and tell you all about it
Now don't be the least disturb-
ed about me. I shall write
to you again on Sunday
and at every stopping place
while I am gone.
When I get to Cincinnati I will
tell you if it will be of any
use for you to write to me
till I get back there. You might
direct the answer to this here
and if I am gone Mr Beach
will forward it to me

I have written to father
about it and he will write
to you. I heard from him
last night. He is well and
much cheered up by his
visit home.
All send much love.
Give my dear love and
a kiss to Sophie and remem-
ber me affectionately to
Carrie. I shall write
to Mort this morning.
Good bye darling
God bless you
Your own dear mother
C. A. Van Cleve

it and give me her opinion. I suppose
of course your having it taken
was not in opposition to her wishes
or those of Mr and Mrs Boyd and
therefore am sure it was not wrong
yet under the peculiar circum-
stances something might be said a-
gainst it by persons disposed to find
fault. Let Sophie tele you what she
thinks about your paying for it your
selves. She will decide right. Much
of course depends upon the way
it was done, and how it came about
that you had it taken for him
[illegible] trip yourself about it. It will
[illegible] presume [illegible]
[illegible] all the
[illegible] think you had
not tell [illegible] until you see him
and then you can explain it all
to him. You know he is peculiar
and I would not have his noble
heart suffer one pang on account
of any thing you might do —
I shall see you soon and mean

talk [illegible] own troubles over
whatever they may be in the
meantime, do right in every partic-
ular, and all will go right. Tele
dear Sophie I want her to write to
me, let her see this letter and in
fact you can let her see all my
letters. I have had eight letters
to-day. Two from Ed. one from
dear Mort. one from Grandma
one from Aunt Ellen, one from
little Ellen and one from Billy
Bennet, dated Valparaiso Chili
yours makes the eighth. Mort was
very well. [illegible] had [illegible]
[illegible] from [illegible]
[illegible] him [illegible]
[illegible] full of fun [illegible]
when you get home. [illegible]
was very sweet but told me she could
not come to me this winter as the
children were not very well. Little
Ellen's was very good. She seems happy
and is, they tele me very sweet and
well behaved — Aunt Ellen's was in

Dec


MICH
Mortimer Thornton
141 Schermerhorn Street
Brooklyn
New York

Ann Arbor May 30th 1856

My precious Children,

I have seated myself this evening to have a little chat with you, and hope I shall not be interrupted, All the little folks except baby Paul are in bed, but not yet asleep. I hear their voices and it is sweet music for me, for they are well and happy I feel grateful to our Heavenly Father that he has thus far preserved them in health — I rec'd your letter to day dear daughter, it was short but very pleasant, for it told me you were getting along nicely, and were happy my compliments to Mr T. Pearce, and tell him I should be glad of a personal acquaint and with one of whom I have often heard my boys speak. Dear children, you will be very circumspect now will you not? in your intercourse with each other, now that there are new members of the household who do not know your ways as well as those who have known you for years and have seen the affection of children ripen into enduring, pure and holy love — Much that you have been in the habit of doing and saying before me who know and love you so truly, would seem altogether wrong

Do you state write for the Hon. Rochester?

and out of the way to others, and I cannot
bear that your names should be lightly hand-
led by the new friends you are now becoming
acquainted with. I suppose this is a le needless
caution, but I want you to know just how
I feel, and to be somewhat on your guard
I am older than you and know more of this
wicked world than you do, you will forgive
me will you not, for writing to you thus?
It is because I love you so well. You must have
quite a nice little table full now and I suppose
it is very pleasant. I am glad you all enjoy
yourselves so well. I have much comfort too
I have devoted myself more entirely than
ever to my little folks this spring, and
their improvement is an ample reward
for any self-denial on my part. I think
a large family of children is just the disci-
pline I needed, and can feel that it has
been a great benefit to me. They are fine chil-
dren and are great comforts to me.
You say dear Nannie that your school will
be out in four weeks, I should like much to
have you visit home, and trust you may be able to
do so, we will leave it in God's hands and
believe that he will do right in this matter.
News from Chicago quite cheering, if father
can only hang on I doubt not he will find
plenty to do, and he wants soon to make

some arrangement for taking us out
there. However this will not be before fall I
presume. Dear Mort you don't know how
much I like Plu-ri-bus-tah. It is capital
and will do you great credit wherever it goes
I trust you will make something handsome
out of it. Your Van Clem father wants you
to send, if you can by some good opportunity one
of Anna's likenesses, he wants to show his eldest
daughter to her cousins. Send it to me and
I will get it to him. The one taken in Cin-
cinnati is a good one, can you spare it a
while? You shall have it again Judge
Wilson and daughter were here one day
this week on their way East for Isadore's
health. I only saw her across the street
she stopped at Sawforths, I called but she
was out. She spent the evening at Fannie's
and I supposed the kind tribe would
be there, and did not go. Those girls treat
me in such a way that if they were my
equals I would resent it, but they have lor-
ered themselves so much by their hateful
ways that I ought not to notice it at all.
An insignificant cur does not hurt you
by barking, but when he keeps it up for a
long while. It is certainly annoying.
Charlie and Fannie are much absorbed in
their new house. I presume it will not be

completed before fall, but they walk over to see
it often and the only time I see them is when they
pass my window. They seem very happy. Do you
still love each other dear children, as well as ever
I guess so, and may God spare you to each
other for many years, increasing your happiness
and love for each other year by year.
Saturday, I stopped here last night because it
was late and cold. To-day I have been very
busy as usual, and this afternoon I am engaged
out to tea. I spent the afternoon at Mrs Millins
the other day, and met several ladies. The
talked of you all. I have just heard that Mr Hil-
liams has some home, perhaps he brings some
news of you. Mr Hanforth is making great im-
provements in the back part of his house
it really looks quite respectable, he is with
the workmen all the time and I have a re-
fushing view of human nature whenever I cast
my eyes that way. I suppose Malcolm may be
home in two weeks, dear boy. I wish you my dear
children were to be here at the same time.
In three weeks at the farthest you will probably
see dear Ellen and I know it will be a great
gratification to you. It will be as much as four
perhaps before they reach New York, however as they make
some visits by the way. Give my dear love to all who
love me. The children send love. God bless you
my dear children, Your loving mother
G. O. Vanderbilt

and make allowances if I am not
as prompt as I should be —
My big baby in Chicago demands a
great many letters and I have hu-
mored him so long that I cannot
cure him of his whims — Then that
other baby in New York would cry
if I did not send him as many
as usual, so I have to be easy
~~on~~ myself where I can, and
feel as if my Monroe girls were more
reasonable, and would understand
more fully why I cannot write as
much as I want to — One more
to you before you [illegible] home will de-
[illegible] [illegible] return we
will begin again — and I shall be
better able to write than I am now —
Father writes in good spirits although he
has not yet secured permanent business
but he is making many friends and
will succeed I doubt not after awhile

He met [illegible] the street on Mon-
day and [illegible] surprised and
pleased — They will enjoy each other's
society this winter very much —
The Chicago cousins are anxious to become
acquainted with you. If father remains
there, you shall visit them in the spring —
I should be very happy if Sophie's family
and ours should be settled there one
of these days; it may be so,
I had a letter from Jacob Cooke yester-
day. He gives very good accounts of
my girls, says it is rumored that
Sackett and Sophie are engaged to
be married and he hopes it is so
for he thinks [illegible] of the finest
girls in the world and deserves as
good a husband as he thinks that I
would make. Tell her not to be break-
ing the fellows' hearts. It is naughty
to do so — Eliza Powers has been spend-
ing a day or two with me she went

home yesterday afternoon called her name
and seemed to be very much
Stacie is a very pleasant girl I heard
prone Marion yesterday they are all
well and send love Now ask me
my dear Ruth how you are ever to be
good, so long as the human heart is as
it is it cannot be good but if you tell
that [illegible] to go to him just as you ask and tell him
you are poor and needy and that you
want him to give you a new heart that
will ever more love and serve him. Oh
how gladly and readily he will grant
you this boon and although you will at
times have to struggle with
a sinful nature yet the power
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]





[July 15, 1855?]

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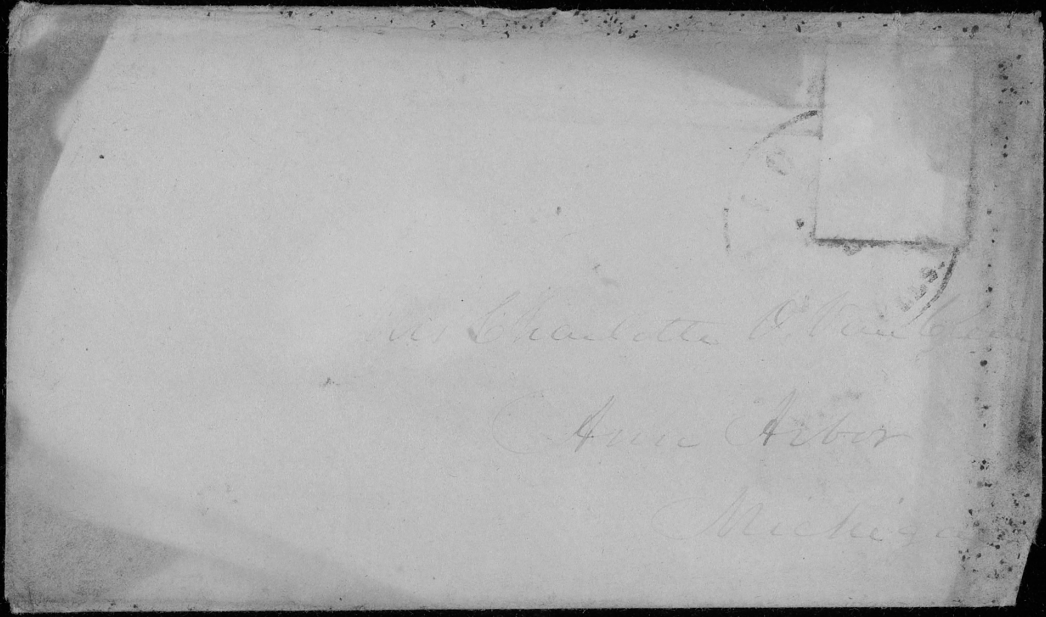




Mrs Charlotte D. Van Cleve

Ann Arbor

Michigan

Chicago Aug 7th 1864

My dear wife

Your Sabbath letter was rec'd on Tuesday, & I tried hard & muster resolution to answer it yesterday, but being under the influence of a stout blue pill that I had taken in the morning, I found a recumbent posture on the lounge much more comfortable for my dizzy head, than an upright posture at a desk. I have suffered considerable pain in the region of my liver for the past two weeks, and all the work I have done has been through much tribulation. I hope the blue pill will benefit me, but am still better in a few days.

I heard yesterday with much regret that Mrs Richardson had lost her child. It died on Friday last of dysentery.

I was at Mrs Kinzie's on Tuesday evening & first heard of it. — Mrs Kinzie inquired par-

ticularly about you & wished to be remembered, that is, sent her love.

I have been lying around several days feeling worthless & good for nothing, & have wished that I were home that you might pet me & make me feel as if I were yet good for something. I want also to see that noble boy, Paul; & that "splendid boy" Sam; & that "brag boy", Mort, (according to Mr Mellen Ellen & Malcolm); and that sweet boy, Seymour; & that darling girl Lizzie; — and our precious absent ones, when shall we see them? — I am glad to learn that the baby is getting along so well with his teeth, We have our trials darling, but we also have many blessings.

I will try to get the "Night of weeping" & read it. — Have not yet been able to replace "the Crook in the lot." Hope to soon, for I had not finished reading it.

You say Mr Mellen thinks the St Clair land wd sell for $10 or $12, I think it wd bring more It ought to be worth $20, at least. I may be gin to look for Mr M & Ellen in ten days. I am anxious to hear from our boy. Did Malcolm Clark leave any particular directions about our writing? Some one I suppose will come to St Paul with Mr Mellen, and might have card letters back; but that wd have been hearing too often. —

I called on Styles a few days since. He is doing very well I believe. Now that I do not feel very well able to work & have nothing to do if I did feel able, I must go about & see what I can see; learn what I can learn; & make myself known. This last, you know has always been hard work for me. —

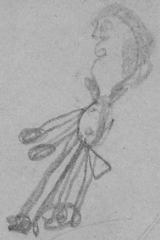
It is astonishing to see in a City like this how many ways there are to make a livelihood. A pleasant looking little fellow, perhaps 14 years of age, just came in & asked if I had any bills that I wanted, collected. I suppose he thought I was the Doctor. Boys here are doing every thing, & any thing to make money.

I think Willie Davies might get a good situation here in a store. I will make inquiries. —

I think of you much, and often, that is, all the time. Want to see you; want to talk to you; want you to pet me; want you to pour out my tea & coffee; want you to sit by me, & cheer me when I am depressed in spirits; want you by me at all times. I do not think it ever was intended that we sh^d live in this way. God grant that we may soon be restored to each other. Kiss my darling children for me; Tell them how much their father loves them. I hope they study hard, that they are good & obedient children, and do all they can to make you happy. May God bless & keep them & you, & comfort you in all your trials.

Do not worry yourself about me. If I thought I were much sick I w^d come home. I hope to be well in a few days.

Your own loving husband H. V. Van Cleve






THREE
CENTS


THREE
CENTS

Lansing Aug 28th 1846

My own dear Mary

Yours of the 19th I received, & was glad to hear from you. I have written you a long letter, & many sheets of this large sheet. I suppose. The letter intended me answer all your letters I would answer also. You may depend upon it I intend to write you every week. I am very much obliged to you for your forgetting for writing. Yes Lucius. I wish you would come & see me very often, or rather that you were very often writing as usual. Tell Emma that I am much obliged to her for her letter, & give her my affectionate love. Tell her she need not be afraid of my using those words that my letter paper had a disagreeable odor, I will change it when I write to her, & send something that has a more agreeable fragrance. I have three or four varieties in my trunk. I saw a woman pass by just now with bare arms, & oh what arms. Shoulder & she has legs & forearms. Having got through with the legs, or rather arms, which are very plump & large, let us talk about the letter. I had given them to see them, I mean the legs, but that is not the [illegible] Speaking of [illegible] legs, I received your letter [illegible] appears that [illegible] you [illegible] I [illegible] you [illegible] you [illegible] you

I gave your message to Mrs Cutler & she said she wd be very
happy to make you a visit. I think it probable however
that they will not make it soon as Mr C. cannot leave just
now; perhaps not till September. Do you intend to in-
vestigate my conduct while here, it might be as well for
[illegible] visit. I [illegible] however if you do
visit this town, which appears to have been set down in
a wilderness at the jumping off place, you wd think every
one perfectly justifyable in indulging in a little fun & fro-
lic, if it came within reach. — One word about the Circus.
It appears that when you were there you found yourself
very comfortably supported by two pillars. Mrs Jewett & Mrs Lee
Of Mrs Lee I know nothing, but I am unable to understand
how Mrs Jewett can make so nice a discrimination between
men & women, boys & girls, dancing on horseback, for the amusement
of the public, & the same individuals dancing in a private house
for their own private amusement. The world must be gover-
ned by our opinions of right & wrong, no matter how incon-
sistent they may be. I am disgusted with such self-righteousness.
You speak of a Town Clock. I was not aware they had one
at your Lecture. I suppose it was set up on the Presbyterian Church.
[illegible] Roads in [illegible]
[illegible] find work [illegible]
[illegible] It [illegible] comfort to be able to send you
some funds occasionally, if it be but little. It is hard, however
to be separated from you & the children so much. Sometimes
I feel like "making a break" for home, then again I think
it wd be better to wait till I get through with my work
here. I fancy that I will see some change in you all, at the
least, perhaps, in your ladyship. Anna has changed but little.

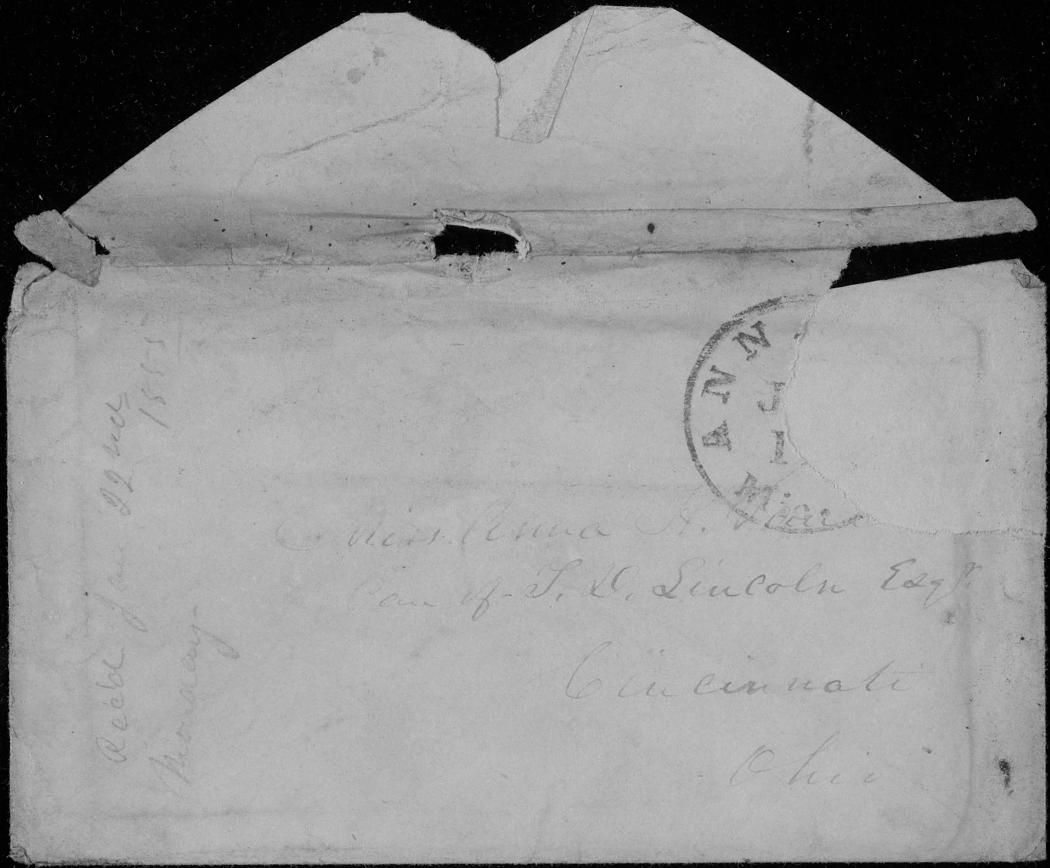
Lizzie has grown some taller; Sammy, [illegible] Eddie, Ellen
& Horace have changed a little & but a little. These are my fancies.
I feel however that I have been from you a long time; time e-
nough for you all to change somewhat. I suppose our absent
boy will be considerably changed, both in appearance & man-
[illegible] when we see [illegible] I hope [illegible] in all re-
spects, changed for the better. You little [illegible] Dear Char-
lie, how much I think of you & my children. My thoughts
are homeward continually. With all my love for you, I
have not been low spirited here; it has been such a com-
fort to me to be able to do something for your comfort.
Since my last letter our town has been in status quo.
Nothing new of any interest to you or me has transpired. I
see Mr Dart & Dr Bartholomew frequently. Mr Dart is teaching
a district school in the village. The Dr is [illegible] his profession.
I met Mr Thayer last evening. He is well & thinks of visiting
Ann Arbor soon perhaps this week. [illegible] this thinking
that you might possibly meet him [illegible] give her the
information. When he returns from [illegible] may be able
to [illegible] something about his [illegible] I believe
to make [illegible] home [illegible]
[illegible] I like the [illegible]
[illegible] you see [illegible]
what a [illegible] letter [illegible] not attend [illegible]
this morning for the same reason that I have [illegible]
myself heretofore at home, that is, for the want of decent
apparel. When I return I must get a new out fit & have
Mr Wagner renovate my grey coat, for the lining has become
very shabby. When I am dressed shabbily I feel shabby. I
agree with Mr Melvin, that I cannot make a bargain in a shabby coat.

Do our children keep up their practice of singing? I found myself humming one of their tunes just now, which led me to think of their singing. I hope they have not left it off. They sh^d practise daily & learn some [illegible] tunes. All the children have good voices & taste [illegible] music & they sh^d be [illegible]. [illegible] manner in a few days, and [illegible] to answer Sam [illegible] "Dear papa". The precious boy, how I sh^d like to take him into my arms & squeeze him hard. [illegible] all him dear papa sends him a kiss. Kiss all my [illegible] for me, & they must all kiss you for me. Good night. God bless you all.

Monday after [illegible] Aug 13th I have nothing new to communicate. Am well, as [illegible] Mrs Cutler, sends her [illegible], thinks you [illegible], and hopes she may sometime be able to make you [illegible]. They are talking of a Rail Road from here to Saginaw & wish the work [illegible] this fall, after the leaves fall, [illegible] trying for a chance at the work, if [illegible] other [illegible] I understand it is a settled matter that the Detroit [illegible] will be [illegible] and I must certain [illegible] possible.

[illegible] dollars [illegible] only makes one [illegible] for your use, to take [illegible] of what I [illegible] I had borrowed of him. I [illegible] send [illegible] but wish to hold on to some to purchase some clothing for myself. I am sorry to say I will need at least $30.00 for that purpose. You may depend upon it, however, that I will be as economical as possible, for I am very anxious to pay up all our debts. — This is very interesting to you. So good bye. Your own loving husband

J. P. Van Cleve



Recd Jan 22nd 1855
Monday

Miss Anna H. [illegible]
Care of T. D. Lincoln Esqr
Cincinnati
Ohio

ANN

12 o'clock. Malcolm has just come in from school and after kissing your letter several times, has commenced reading it. — Horace comes in, saying he got up next to head. Every morning the one who was head the day before, has to go [illegible] to the foot. Horace expects to be head to morrow morning; quite an event in his school life. The children have all come in as hungry as bears. They love their school and are improving very much. We do not let go to visit much, as they learn little but rudeness.

You do not wish Sammie's hair cut. All the children are rejoicing in long locks just now. If we should clip their fleeces next spring, we make make a nice mattress. — All send a great deal of love to sister Mennie. Mother send a great deal of love.

Your own loving father

H. H. Van Cleve

Ann Arbor Thursday Jan 18th 1865

My precious child

We had the pleasure of receiving sweet letters, from you this morning; for mother, Malcolm & myself. You are a dear good child for writing so punctually. Your letters are always anxiously looked for, & interest us very much. Sammie is engaged just now in studying natural history, and as he sits now with the book before him, looking at the dogs and wild beasts, he shouts so loud that I can scarcely hear to write. He is growing to be a great scamp. Eddie Mortie is learning to read rapidly, & also goes to singing school. I expect he will be giving concerts soon, & may need your assistance. The children of all the schools attend. The instruction is given without charge.

The District Board are now making preparations for building the Union School house. They have a very good plan, and when finished it will be quite an ornament to the village. It will cost twelve or fourteen thousand dollars. I have no doubt but that we will have as good a School as there is in the West, & far better than any thing East.

The Children are all impatient to have mother go after you. They speak of you frequently. Mother expects to start next week, if the money comes. That is all she is waiting for. We are expecting it daily. She expects to go to Peach Orchard & to take you with her. I suppose you will not object to that arrangement.

Has the river risen so that coal boats can come down from the Sand? I wish to know, for Mother will find difficulty in going up, if the boats are not running. We are very anxious to have Malcolm go with mother, but I am somewhat fearful that we will not be able to afford it. He wishes very much to go, and I think, it would be a benefit to him. I will have to stay at home, for it would never do for both of us to leave the Children.

We were glad to receive a letter from Ed. Miller a short time since in which he told us that he had concluded to remain in New York. At one time he was sometimes had made up his mind to return to the Office of the Anvil, in Ann Arbor. When we heard of it Malcolm said he ought to be called Eddie. We think he acted wisely in remaining.

5 [Jan. 18, 1855]

P. S. Mother did intend to write but she is writing now to your Aunt Gibbs and fears she will not have time to say any thing to you this afternoon. She sends a great deal of love and says she will write in a few days.

We heard from sister Mary Anne a short time since through a letter from Mr Johnson. Her health is not good and we are urging her to make us a visit this year, and think it might be a great benefit to her. She has never been west and has never seen any of my children. The sight of them, no doubt, would do her good.

My darling,

I have only time to say that if the eastern remittance arrives in time I shall leave home on Tuesday or Wednesday and by Saturday I suppose

I shall take you in my
arms and make you happier
than you have been for a
long time, don't be disappoin-
ed if any things happens
to prevent my coming quite
so soon, I shall be along
in a very few days if we
are all well. Keep busy and
you will not feel the time
of suspense hang so heavily
on your hands, as if you
gave yourself up to think-
ing of it and counting
the days and hours.
I shall write once more
God bless you. Good bye
love to dear Aunlie and
all. Your own mother

C. O. Van Cleve



ANN
SE
18
185
Mich

Mort Lhomme

141 Schermerhorn St

Brooklyn

New York

before her home. She may be
disappointed however.
May Van Cleve inquires
very particularly & affec-
tionately about you, & wants
to see you.
I believe Ann Arbor is
about as usual, quiet &
peaceable, growing but little
at the same time improving.
I think it is by far the prettiest
place I have seen in the West.
Good bye my darling
child. May God bless you
Love to all, & from all
Your own dear father
H. P. Van Cleve
We do not intend to sell the
piano or violin & I am expect-
ing my flute home soon.

Ann Arbor Sept 19. 56
My darling child
Your precious letter
of the 17th was rec'd this morning,
and it gladdened our hearts
to learn that you were well
& in good spirits. We are all
well & busy preparing for our
journey to Minnesota. My prin-
cipal anxiety just now is to
find a purchaser for my
land in Wayne Co. I am
willing to sell it at much
less than its value as I am
about leaving the State, &
want funds.
We are very glad that you
have made up your mind
to go with us. It was our
wish that you sh'd go, but

not knowing what your feelings might be on the subject, we were unwilling to urge it, but preferred leaving it entirely to yourself.

The children, of course, are delighted at the idea of going; with them novelty brings happiness. But all will be delighted to see our darling Anna for her own sake. I will send you funds soon to bring you home & I hope some to spare.

Mother is very busy as usual, some little sewing to do, which of course comes very hard to one not used to it. Poor mother, I do not like to see her always working so hard, but she is very cheerful & even gay with it all, dear good woman.

May you be like her.

The children are all well & happy. Sizzie is lovely & grown very pretty, will be handsomer than her sister. Seymour is a fine, noble boy; Mart is a darling; Sam a perfect jewel; Paul the pride of the family.

Our friends are all sorry to part with us. I wish they wd be sorry about $2000, it wds help me much.

I have been travelling considerably of late. Since I came home (Aug 27th) I have been to Detroit, to Dubuque Iowa to Salem & Pittsfield where we used to live on the farm, to Ypsilanti & to Flat Rock.

We are looking somewhat for Grandma to make us a visit

[illegible]
Had we are to see our dear
daughter soon, but my dear
boy can we not see you too?
Can you possibly leave your
business long enough to come
out here when Anna comes
and make us a visit? I could
say to you so many things which
I cannot write with any satis-
faction, and I should feel re-
ceived to our going west if I could
have a talk with you before we
leave, I fear you will be sad
without dear Anna, but a year is
very short, and then
[illegible] must keep thinking
[illegible] and be all ready
to come on the two spring [illegible]
[illegible] you could come with her
I must write a long letter soon
You must tell us if there is a
prospect of your coming to A. A.
with Anna, if there is not she must
look round for an opportunity for
her to come. I should like dearly
to come down at the [illegible] but I almost

Ann Arbor
Sept 19th 56

Dear Mart

A letter from Anna
this morning informs us that
she has made up her mind
to accompany us to our
new home, we were sincere-
ly rejoiced to learn that this
was her decision for we
had been unwilling to urge
it. And now can we hope
to see you before we leave?
We hardly dare hope for it,
but we shd leave with much
lighter hearts if we cd see
you if it were but for a day.
Although it is some dis-
tance to Long Prairie, Minne-
sota we do not consider it

as much of a journey from N.Y. city as it used to be from Rochester to Ann Arbor. In some two or three years the whole journey save some fifty or sixty miles can be made by Rail Road

Wife thinks you need rest & that a journey wd benefit you, she will find it very hard to leave without seeing you. The children too wd be happy to see you. You wd see some change in them, if not improvement, they have grown considerably since you saw them. You wd find Ann Arbor just when it used to be and your baggage at the Detroit Depot wd be chaulked 7. At our depot you wd hear the cry, All aboard for Cook's hotel!

We expect a visit next summer from your mother I trust Cliff is pleased there & that he will not be much sorry to see us. If he has not much to do I want to take him in the woods with me to sleep with the bears & wolves & fish for shiners.

We expect to be ready to start in about four weeks.

Farewell, May God bless you

Remember me to all

With sincere regard

Yours H. P. Van Cleve

My own dear children

I have only time to add a line to tell you how dearly I love you both and